

TITLE I – BORDER ENFORCEMENT
“Secure Borders, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Reform Act of 2007”

This bill is the toughest, most comprehensive border and interior enforcement bill ever proposed.

Enforcement Personnel: Mandates the doubling of border agents by hiring 14,000 more, increases to 2,500 Customs and Border protection officers, 250 Deputy U.S. Marshals, 800 Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigators, and 800 DHS Smuggling investigators. (4,500 border agents must be hired before the trigger is met.)

Infrastructure and technology: Directs DHS to acquire and use unmanned aerial vehicles, cameras, sensors, and poles and other technology, construct 370 miles of fencing, including 14 miles of fencing near San Diego, ensure connectivity between DHS and FBI fingerprint databases, acquire 20 new detention facilities with space for 20,000 detainees, and carry out a port of entry technology pilot. It authorizes construction of new border ports of entry and improvements to existing ones. The 370 miles of fence must be completed before the “trigger” is met along with a 70 ground-based radar and camera towers, along with 4 unmanned aerial vehicles along the southern border.

New legal authorities: Authorizes DHS to collect biometric data from border crossers and to refuse entry to those who refuse to provide it, makes it a crime to evade border checkpoints, requires a \$5,000 bond from apprehended unauthorized border crossers (not from Mexico or Canada) before release, and allows DHS to seize vehicles with hidden smuggling compartments.

Better planning and coordination: Requires improved planning and coordination to create integrated border security strategies, prevent border deaths, safeguard protected federal lands, establish secure communication capabilities, fully and effectively integrate surveillance technologies, equip land borders with the US-VISIT entry-exit screening system, train DHS officers in detecting fraudulent documents, assess port-of-entry infrastructure, combat human smuggling, and more cost-effectively train border patrol officers.

Assisting state and local authorities: Authorizes DHS grants to local law enforcement agencies in border communities. Sets up a Commission with membership from states and local communities to recommend border enforcement strategies, programs, and policies to the President and Congress.